

REMARKS

The Office Action rejected claims 1-6 and 8-13. The rejections are traversed, and reconsideration of all claims is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 1-6 and 8-13 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-6 and 8-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication 2004/0018774 to Long et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Long") in view of U.S. Patent 4,025,139 to Martucci. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Long and Martucci taken alone or in combination do not disclose, teach or suggest at least,

"a power supplying jack provided at an end of the DC power cable and connected to one of the first connection port of the computer main body and the second connection port of the docking station to supply DC power therethrough;

a grounding jack provided at an end of the grounding cable and connected to the other one of the first connection port of the computer main body and the second connection port of the docking station to connect the grounding cable and one of the grounding areas of the computer main body and the docking station to each other,"

as recited in claim 1.

In response to the arguments presented in the Amendment filed on January 13, 2005, item 11 on page 6 of the Office Action notes,

"Long teaches an AC/DC adapter that connects and supplies power to a notebook computer and a docking station or some other peripheral device using a single connector. Martucci teaches a power connector (not a hospital bed) having an auxiliary wire and ground connector. As one of ordinary skill in the art would recognize, Martucci's connector is not limited to what the connector connects too, or whether it is connecting one device to the main power or connecting two devices together. Therefore, one having ordinary skill in the art, taking as a whole Long and Martucci together, would see that the notebook computer and peripheral device of Long could be connected using the connector taught by Martucci."

Applicant respectfully traverses this assertion. In column 1, lines 5-32, Martucci indicates that (1) the interruption of electrical power to devices needed by a patient in a hospital room is unacceptable, and (2) the loss of any grounding circuit due to a defective plug, receptacle, cable, connection, etc., could endanger the life of the patient. Therefore, Martucci addresses the problem by disclosing a redundant electrical grounding system for one electrical appliance.

Martucci does not disclose, teach, or suggest that a ground conductor 4 should be connect to one electrical appliance and that the ground conductor 5 should be connected to another electrical appliance. If the ground conductor 4 of Martucci was connected to a motorized bed (one electrical appliance) and the ground conductor 5 of Martucci was connected to an electrocardiogram (another electrical appliance), then Martucci would no longer teach a redundant electrical grounding system. The Office Action's characterization of Martucci defeats Martucci's proposed solution to the problem of delivering uninterrupted power to electrical devices in a hospital room without risking the life of the patient.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Long and Martucci, alone or in combination, do not disclose, teach or suggest at least "a power supplying jack . . . connected to one of . . . the computer main body and . . . the docking station . . ." and "a grounding jack . . . connected to the other one of . . . the computer main body and . . . the docking station," because Long does not disclose a second cable, and Martucci's ground conductors 4 and 5 are connected to the same electrical appliance.

Moreover, to set forth a *prima facie* §103 rejection, there must be some evidenced reason for modifying a reference. Specifically, there must be evidence outside the present application, which motivates, leads, or suggests to one of ordinary skill to modify a reference, i.e., evidenced motivation is required; conclusions without evidence are insufficient. Similarly, an "obvious to try" rationale for combining two references is not valid motivation under 35 U.S.C. § 103. In re Goodwin, 576 F.2d 375, 377, 198 U.S.P.Q. 1, 3 (CCPA 1978); In re Antonie, 559 F.2d 618, 195 U.S.P.Q. 6 (CCPA 1977); In re Tomlinson, 363 F.2d 928, 150 U.S.P.Q. 623 (CCPA 1966).

Conversely, the Office Action appears to have only set forth a conclusion, without indicating where (or how) the cited motivation is derived. It would appear that the cited motivation is only a conclusion of the Examiner without evidence.

Any further actions are respectfully requested to include explicit support for the Examiner's asserted motivation.

Thus, without reliance on the disclosure of the present application, it is respectfully submitted that there would not have been motivation to combine Long's power adapter for a notebook computer with Martucci's redundant electrical grounding system. Therefore, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the cited references.

Claim 2 depends directly from claim 1 and includes all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the reference. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 2 also patentably distinguishes over the cited reference.

Similarly, Long and Martucci taken alone or in combination do not disclose, teach or suggest at least, "wherein the power supplying jack is connectable to one of the portable device and the docking station, and the grounding jack is connectable to the other one of the portable device and docking station to supply a ground path other than through the power supplying jack," as recited in independent claim 3. Therefore, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 3 also patentably distinguishes over the cited references.

Claims 4-6 and 8 depend directly or indirectly from claim 3 and include all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-6 and 8 also patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Similarly, Long and Martucci taken alone or in combination do not disclose, teach or suggest at least, "wherein the power supplying jack is for connecting to the first electrical device and the grounding jack is for connecting to the second electrical device," as recited in claim 9. Therefore, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 9 also patentably distinguishes over the cited references.

Claims 10-13 depend directly or indirectly from claim 9 and include all the features of that claim plus additional features which are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, for at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 10-13 also patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Summary

Claims 1-6 and 8-13 are pending and under consideration. It is respectfully submitted that none of the references taken alone or in combination disclose the present claimed invention.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: June 3, 2005

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